

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented herein.

The claims in the application are claims 2, 5 to 7 and 9, all other claims having been cancelled.

The cancellation of claim 10 obviates the ground of rejection under 35 USC 112, 1st paragraph and cancellation of claims 1, 8 and 11 to 16 obviates the obvious double patenting rejection of these claims. With respect to claims 5 to 7, claim 5 to 7 are now dependent on claim 2 which was not subject to this rejection.


Claims 2 and 5 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by the EP 0612578 (lines 50 to 51 of col. 1 and lines 13 to 25 of col. 3). Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over EP 0612578 or Matsunaga patent and claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Matsunaga. The Examiner states that Matsunaga discloses Sn-Ag-Zn solder compositions overlapping the claims and that EP 0612578 discloses Zn-Ag-Sn-In solder compositions.

Applicants respectfully traverse these grounds of rejections since the cited art does not teach Applicants' lead-free, tin-silver solder containing 0.3 to 1% of zinc and 8 to 10% of indium which has the advantage of strength in joints in electroless Ni-P plating. The compositions of

composition E of Table 1 on page 8 are within the scope of the present claims and in Table 5, it can be seen the advantages of the claimed invention as compared to O₆ which has the same composition but without the presence of zinc. The Examiner's attention is drawn to the advantages beginning after Table V. The presence of zinc decreases the wettability which is in no way taught by the art cited by the Examiner. The cited art does not teach Applicants' four component composition nor the patentable advantages thereof. Therefore, withdrawal of these grounds of rejection are requested.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above remarks, it is believed that the claims point out Applicants' patentable invention. Therefore, favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures